(b) whether the farmers in Uttar Pradesh are agitating for higher prices of sugarcane than that at which they supply to the sugar mills;

(c) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Bhartiya Kisan Union have urged the Union Government to abolish the dual pricing policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected from the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Plantation by Public Sector Companies

1578. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private companies running iron ore mines have made efforts to undertake plantation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the specific steps taken by the public sector companies doing ore mining for observing the environmental norms ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Private Companies undertake plantations of roads, lease areas, overburden dump sites, decommissioned tailing ponds and colonies.

(c) Various specific steps taken to observe environmental norms. These include: water spraying in dusty area; use of dust arresters with drills; controlled blasting, development of guided channels; treatment of mine water before discharge; reclamation and rehabilitation of mined-out areas, and afforestation.

[Translation]

Pending Cases of Consumers Grievances

1579. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of consumer cases pending for disposal with the different courts/fora, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed of during 1996-97 till date, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which the remaining cases are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Number of cases disposed of and pending with the District Fora, State-wise is given in the statement attached.

(c) Disposal of cases by Consumer Courts is a continuous process, hence, no time frame can be fixed.

Statement

State/UT	Disposed of since Inception	Pending Cases	At the End of
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	66738	12937	9/96
Arunachal Pradesh	106	34	10/96
Assam	3005	826	4/96
Bihar	15724	10503	10/96
Goa	1546	593	10/96
Gujarat	25588	16148	9/96
Haryana	30037	10149	9/96
Himachal Pradesh	6155	1077	9/96
Jammu & Kashmir	5837	1045	8//96
Karnataka	30534	11419	8/96
Kerala	66431	5033	10/96
Madhya Pradesh	23425	11510	12/95
Maharashtra	43563	17040	9/96
Manipur	601	10	9/95
Meghalaya	99	38	6/96
Mizoram	147	12	11/96
Nagaland	6	7	9/94
Orissa	12470	2065	9/96
Punjab	12046	3039	9/96
Rajasthan	73453	10618	9/96
Sikkim	60	7	10/96
Tamil Nadu	28608	5008	9/96
Tripura	487	81	9/96
Uttar Pradesh	86060	49821	8/96
West Bengal	4767	15006	9/96
Andaman & Nicobar	107	12	9/96

1	2	3	4
Chandigarh	4469	3527	6/96
D & N Haveli	10	10	8/96
Daman & Diu	16	16	9/96
Delhi	26000	9710	10/96
Lakshadweep	24	2	11/96
Pondicherry	1077	72	11/96
Total	569196	197375	

[English]

Reservation for Dalits

1580. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister assured in November 1996 to consider the demand of the Dalits for the extension of job reservation to them in the private sector and removal of 50 per cent ceiling on the reservations; and

(b) if so, the steps so far taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) It is reported that such demands were made at a rally before the Prime Minister. It was responded that the same would be examined.

Amarnath Yatra

1581. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the report of the Inquiry Committee constituted to probe the Amarnath Yatra tragedy in Kashmir in 1996;

(b) if so, the salient features of the main observations and recommendations contained therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the measures taken to avoid recurrence of such tragedies in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The entire report was laid on the Table of the Houses of Parliament on 18.12.1996.

(c) and (d) The Government have accepted the report and the State Government have been asked to take proper remedial/preparatory measures, as suggested in the report, so that there is no recurrence of the tragedy. Government of India will provide necessary assistance to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir in this regard.

Inflated Maximum Printed Prices on Consumer Items

1582. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the maximum prices printed on the consumer items are mostly inflated ones;

(b) whether complaints have been received by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the steps contemplated by the Government to protect the interests of the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) The standards of weights and measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 require that retail sale price of a commodity sold in packaged form be printed thereon in the following format: "Maximum or Max. retail price .....inclusive of all taxes or in the form MRP Rs .....incl., of all taxes."

MRP is the maximum price at which the product can be sold. The actual sale price could be less than MRP due to various factors.

No information regarding very large margins accruing to retailers has come to the notice of the Government. The Government is, however, considering the issue in consultation with concerned groups and organisations with a view to serve better the interests of consumers.

[Translation]

Production of Sunflower

1583. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :
SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States producing sunflower indicating its total area under cultivation in those States, State-wise;

(b) the total quantity of sunflower produced annually by these States during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the production of sunflower has marginally decreased this year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide subsidy to the farmers to increase the production of sunflower; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The major sunflower producing States are Andhra